## **PATENT APPLICATION**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)		#6
KAZUHIRO SAITO, et al.	)		4-16-04
Application No.: 09/902,719	:	Group Art Unit:	2621
Filed: July 12, 2001	)		
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,	; )		RECEIVED
AND PROGRAMS THEREOF	)	April 8, 2004	APR 1 2 2004
Commissioner for Patents			Technology Center 2600
P.O. Box 1450			
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450			

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,689,350 Europe 820 189 Europe 674 430 Europe 529 967 Germany 31 45 535

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above-identified U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report from the European Patent Office, which is dated March 4, 2004, is enclosed.

An English-language abstract for Germany 31 45 535 is enclosed and is believed to provide an explanation of relevance for the reference.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office

Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety
and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the
claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information
has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to

our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.015567	APPLICATION NO. 09/902,719						
		APPLICANT  KAZUHIRO SAITO, et al.							
(Use several sheets if necessary)			FILING DATE July 12, 20	GROUP <b>2621</b>					
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE			
GIPS .	5,689,350	11/18/97	Rolleston	358	504				
011 6									
APR 0 9 2004 w						_			
RADEMACH				F	ECE	/ED			
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	I	FC	REIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS	1	<del></del>	I			
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT			
	820 189	1/21/98	Europe						
	674 430	9/27/95	Europe		-				
	529 967	3/3/93	Europe						
	31 45 535	5/26/83	Germany			Abstract			
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									
EXAMINER	<u></u>		DATE CONSIDERED						

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.